

THE BRIDGE TO LIBERTY

A Plan to Evolve from the Capitalist
System to a Co-operative System



By R. C. OWENS

105th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

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PREFACE

Dear Reader, take a thoughtful, serious and common-sense view of society at the present time, politically, economically and socially, or otherwise, and what do we find? Even in this naturally rich and new country, with the most fertile soil and natural resources, almost inexhaustible coal, timber, fish, etc., and splendid climate; yes, a country capable of supporting more than a hundred millions of people in comfort under a proper regime—and now with a population of between nine and ten millions—what do we find?—about half the people close to the poverty line and thousands unemployed, and in the bread line; with thousands of women and children in hunger and want, with the mills, warehouses, stores and shops full of food, clothing and all the necessities and comforts of life, whilst at the same time, a few, perhaps not over five or six per cent of the people, are piling up millions; yes, billions, and living in the laps of luxury. And this is done legally. Then take a glance across the imaginary line to the U.S. We find affairs there much the same. Then investigate the older countries in Europe and the case is still worse, where the same system has had more time to get in its deadly work. And is it not a sad and doleful picture to contemplate? Consequently, is it to be wondered at that many people in all countries have lost all faith in the ballot, and are preparing for the overthrow of the present system by a bloody revolution? And their arguments are quite plausible. So much so that they are gradually gaining in numbers. Of course the capitalists who are the backbone of the present system imagine that they can quell this revolutionary movement by repression, and that they can, by preaching bunk patriotism, get enough unemployed workmen and fool farmers to shoot down these revolutionaries. But they will get awfully fooled, as both farmers and others are fast getting their eyes opened to the schemes of the capitalists, who will do anything but get off the backs of the wealth producers. Past history proves that the ruling

and robber classes never saw their doom until they were overwhelmed.

But both the organized farmers, as well as organized Labor are moving too slow, and not exactly on right lines and principles to accomplish the desired end in time, therefore this work is for the purpose of showing the wealth producers of every country how to proceed in order to establish a true and lasting co-operative system of society by and through the ballot. Also that there is no time to be lost or fooling with halfway measures. There has already been too much time wasted. Think of it, the capitalists with their tools and agents and those who aspire to become capitalists do not comprise more than about ten per cent of the population here in Canada and of the 244 members of parliament, there are less than thirty who claim to represent the wealth producers. And a few of them hardly know what they are there for except to draw that \$4,000 for a few months in Ottawa each year.

At present Great Britain is about the only country wherein the wealth producers are about to take possession of their government, and I do hope when they do they will show a good example to the wealth producers of the world, but they are not properly organized. It is essentially necessary for the wealth producers of every country to be organized industrially, with each industry electing delegates to a central body similar to our trades and labor councils, just to correlate and regulate the interests of each to all, so that central councils, with a few joint committees, will be about all the government necessary. What a contrast to the numerous, cumbersome, expensive governments of capitalism!

You should remember that we are living in an age of progress. Progress consists chiefly of two things: first, to do things which were never done before; second, doing things that were done before better than they were ever done before.

We expect to hear a chorus of voices saying, impossible, it won't work, it can't be done, especially from the horde of those who under the present system enjoy soft snaps, such as bankers, bond holders, owners of factories, mills,

mines, and large land holders; also lawyers, their handy men, office holders, office seekers, place hunters, and scheming politicians, may all be expected to join in the chorus; and lastly but loudest of all the pen pushers, editors and writers in the capitalist press.

But this work is not penned expecting the endorsement of the above classes, but for the benefit of the wealth producers, those engaged in necessary and useful services for the good and welfare of society, or as some persons term it, for the common good. The farmers and wage workers are just now becoming aware of the fact that they and they alone produce the wealth of the world and should be the rightful owners of all wealth. Consequently, in order to accomplish this they must take possession of all governments and abolish all laws by which the few are enabled to accumulate, possess and enjoy the wealth produced by the many, for this is all accomplished by and through the ownership and operations of governments, consequently we must own and operate all governments.

The capitalist should be an example for us. See how tenaciously they work and scheme to keep possession of every government, and they form not ten per cent of the population. Still they are able through various schemes and fallacies to humbug and blindfold enough of the wealth producers to keep them and their political tools and agents in possession of the law factories, and they also retain the administration of the laws.

So in order to construct a lasting civilization or condition to human society, it must be kept constantly in mind that every move and change which is made shall be in accordance with absolute *justice, equality of opportunity for education, and equal compensation for all work and necessary services, and no possibility of any special privileges.*

We find that all past civilizations of which we have any history and which have gone down in bloody revolution,

were built on the oppression of the many by the few, and the present tottering, rotten, capitalistic system is no exception.

In compiling and publishing literature on the great issues and problems affecting the welfare of society, the author assumes a very grave responsibility, and should be imbued with a spirit of unselfishness and free from any bias or prejudice, and feel certain that he is absolutely sound on the ideas and principles set forth, and animated with a sincere desire to assist in the elevation and betterment of human society.

We believe it is the imperative duty of every person who is aware of the evils of present-day society, which enables the few to live in luxury, at the expense and pauperization of the many who produce all the wealth, to do all in their power to wake up the people before it is too late.

The plans and principles herein set forth, if put into operation, will more than double the income of those who live by honest work and make it impossible for any persons to become rich by schemes under cover of law, at the expense of the wealth producers. I believe also that this grand change can be brought about without bloodshed and without doing any injustice to any person.

I know also that the privileged classes will never relinquish their privileges without a struggle. They will do no fighting themselves, but if possible make the workers slaughter each other in war, as they always have done. To prevent such a dire calamity is the aim of this little work, the writer believing that if another world war is started, that this civilization is doomed (and there is every indication of it as nearly all countries have expended more than twice the amount of money since the last war, in war preparation, than in the same length of time previous to the last world war). All life in a town or city will be blotted out in practically a few minutes with poison gas bombs, so if what I pen in the following pages may assist in warding off such a terrible catastrophe, the writer will feel blessed to be in the land of the living at the present time.

THE BRIDGE TO LIBERTY

Dear Reader, we are now living in the most important and momentous epoch of which we have any record in the annals of history. There have been more labor-saving inventions and improvements in machinery and all mechanical appliances in the past hundred years than in all previous history of man on this planet. One hundred years ago there were no railroads; all travel and transportation was done by the ox and horse, except that which was done by man's own muscular power. Practically all work was done by hand with the assistance of the ox and the horse, with but crude tools. Even then people were able to produce comparatively enough food, clothing and shelter, which are the main essentials necessary for comfortable living. Their wants were few and easily satisfied; there being no one very rich nor very poor, and amongst the grown people few could read and write, as free education was only commencing. I knew people to go as far as six or seven miles to get some person to write a letter. There were no such things as envelopes or postage stamps, no railroads, no stoves, no reapers and no threshing machines. Then, principally, every settler and farmer kept sheep, clipped the wool and the women and girls generally carded, spun and wove it into cloth. The tailor went round from house to house and made the men's clothing, the women made their own clothing and also that of the children. The shoemaker did the same as the tailor. I guess it was about 1844 or 1845 before there could be any men's clothing purchased in a store in London, Ontario, and it was quite a town then. Of course, women could purchase calico, gingham and light cotton goods of which they made summer dresses, and could buy what was called cotton-batting to make quilts. They also made their own blankets. So you can see that the women and girls had very little leisure time any more than the men and boys had, but all were healthier and

happier, also more robust than now. At that time the grain was all reaped with the hand-sickle with which it took a man five days to cut an acre. They threshed the grain with two sticks tied together, called a flail, and cleaned it with the wind.

Now let us skip even less than a hundred years and observe the transformation. Now all production, distribution and exchange are carried on for profit. Every industry is specialized. Everything produced, except on the farm, is mainly made in large factories, by machinery, owned by large corporations for profit. Many of the members of the companies never see the factories, perhaps live in other countries. The products of these factories, mills, mines, etc., are generally sold to jobbers, then to wholesalers, then to retailers who sell to individuals, each making large profits. Workers are employed in those factories, mills, mines, railroading and other necessary—and unnecessary and wasteful pursuits—who depend upon their wages to purchase the “wherewith” by which they and their families may live; who endeavor in a feeble way to get as much as possible for their labor power; the employing class only pay the lowest wages at which they can purchase labor. Still there are men, yes, even labor leaders, who claim that the interest of the employee and employer are identical (yes, as the wolf and the lamb!)

Then let us note also how the farmer’s operations and business has changed in the meantime. Now he is compelled to sell everything on the market at the purchaser’s price, in order to get money to buy practically everything he and his family need, besides farm equipment, at a price generally more than double the cost of production; the price being set by the factory owners, the jobbers, wholesalers and the retailers, each of which are thoroughly organized and see to it that their profits are great enough to enable them to live in luxury and accumulate wealth rapidly at the expense of the wealth producer. Those who work, that is in most cases the farmers, are compelled to mortgage their farms and perhaps stock and equipment for money to get along and live, on account of the scarcity of money, made so purposely by the

bankers. Then the interest takes most of what he makes, so in time the mortgage company forecloses and perhaps leaves him a pauper. And remember that the mortgage companies are principally owned by the same men who own the banks, who purposely make money so scarce that their friends and partners in factories, mills, mines, railroads, and all the other corporate and big business enterprises can hire labor cheap on account of so much unemployment, also purchase the farmers' products at less than cost of production; and worse than all, take over the millions of property under mortgage at less than one-fourth its value. Consequently millionaires are being multiplied and the wealth producers more successfully robbed than in any period in past history. Meanwhile there is plenty food, clothing and the necessary conveniences and comforts, yes, and even luxuries produced for all. The factories, mills, warehouses, shops and stores are full of everything the people need. But the rank and file of those who produce this wealth are compelled to exist in comparative poverty, and many suffering actual want, in regard to food, clothing and shelter, the common necessities for existence, and practically every privilege the possessors of wealth enjoy is even protected and made possible by law. We see that machinery, modern inventions and discoveries and labor-saving devices, which the workers use now to produce wealth, are simply an improvement on the hand tools of eighty to a hundred years ago, and by which one worker can produce twenty times as much as he could then. The worker *must own the tools* and then the *goods produced will be his*.

Now I claim that in any country where the people have the ballot and is supposed to be a Democracy, or a Republic, which means practically the same thing, the people can, by and through an intelligent use of the ballot, solve all their problems and remedy all their ills. But the workers must turn over a new leaf. In the first place they must get to understand that all wealth is produced by labor (work), and that there never was and I suppose there never will be any wealth produced otherwise than by, and through labor. Now by labor is meant any and every person who performs any

necessary services for human society, and no normal person has any right to enjoy wealth who is not rendering some necessary service for the common good.

The people by an intelligent and wise use of their citizenship can remedy all their social and economic problems and evils. But those evils now have reached such magnitude (through our neglect of duty in the past), that in order to remedy or abolish them we must have recourse to extraordinary measures, and should use our united wisdom from the standpoint of justice to establish a system of society which will secure for all and each of its members equal rights with no special privileges to any person. Now in the first place, let us look at the bungling multiplicity of laws, we are actually lawed to death, nine-tenths of the present laws must be abolished and the other tenth made simple and plain so that the people can understand them.

The bulk of the laws upholding the present system are for making possible and enforcing special privileges for the few, thus enabling those few to accumulate the wealth produced by the work of the many without doing any work or producing any wealth themselves, but who, by those schemes enacted into law are enabled to live in the laps of luxury. And the worst of it is that the wealth producers instead of sending persons from their own class, to the halls of legislation, instructed what to do, vote for the banker, the lawyer, the business man, the doctor, the real estate sharks, and political schemers. Consequently we have the laws made and administered in the interest and to the benefit of the non-producing and speculating classes, who look on the wealth producers as inferior to them and who should be satisfied with a bare coarse living.

Now self-interest is the prevailing principle of humanity, hence it is unreasonable to expect those speculating classes, to make laws in the interest of the wealth producers.

Now a few words to the average trade unionist: Do you find the non-producing classes interested in the welfare of your union, or why were you compelled to organize? Was it not to protect yourselves against the injustice of the various non-producing classes? To find that many of you vote for

the candidates of your enemies shows very poor political judgment, and very dwarfed wisdom politically. Now under a proper and ideal system of society, each industry must be organized in one organization. That is, every person engaged in the printing industry in all the various branches of that industry in one organization. The building industry the same, the farming industry the same, the railroad industry the same, also every other industry, calling, and necessary employment, for the welfare of society, each sending delegates to a central body for the purpose of arranging and correlating the interest of the various industries, callings, and occupations, to the best interest of all. Now some people term this group organization, but industrial organization and representation is the proper term. Thus, and only thus, can society be organized and conducted and operated on a co-operative basis, provincially, nationally, internationally and universally.

RICH AND POOR

Rich and poor, rich and poor, oh, what tragic words are these;
What histories, what mysteries, of fortune's stern decrees.
Friends they sever, some forever; think what torture they
endure;
Must we tomorrow live in sorrow just by being rich or poor?

See yon gay and costly carriage bears a proud one on her way,
'Tis for that her heartless marriage, this perchance is what
she'll say;
But her troubles now are endless, 'spite her place in mam-
mon's niche,
For she is desolate and friendless—'twas not so ere she was
rich.

Rich and poor, rich and poor, oh, what magic words are these!
What histories, what mysteries, of fortune's stern decrees.
Friends they sever, some forever; think what torture they
endure;
Must we tomorrow lend or borrow, just by being rich or poor?

Ask yon maiden, broken-hearted, why she looks so pale with
care;
Gold, she'll tell you, 'twas that parted her from all she hoped
to share;
Not a heart, but worldly splendor, strove her loved one to
secure,
What cared he who might befriend her—he was rich and she
was poor.

Rich and poor, rich and poor, upon these words what hearts
are sold;
What heart-beating, what retreating, when the test is nought
but gold;
Vows are broken, falsehoods spoken, streams once crystal
run impure,
Every trouble seems to double, just by being rich or poor.

Now, it is the unanimous opinion of all wise, thoughtful, modern students of political economy that if society were organized on such a plan or basis, each normal person between the age of twenty and fifty years doing their share of some useful work or services for society, could produce enough of the necessities, comforts, and luxuries of life for all in a four or five hour day, only working five days a week and ten months each year. Oh! would that not be glorious compared to the present chaos, misery, pauper and millionaire system that we now have, crushing out the best traits and desires of humanity. Why! Oh why! cannot our Christian people see that the present system is directly opposed to the practice and spirit of Christianity, which says woe to the rich and blessed are the poor. Still, Christians are just as avaricious, as grinding on the poor workers, and as anxious to get rich as Jews and unbelievers. In business there is practically no difference. There is but one means under heaven to produce wealth, that is by work, but there are practically thousands of ways to accumulate wealth, so it is through various schemes that a few people get rich, but principally by robbing the wealth producers, largely by and through the present money, land and corporation laws.

Some persons ask how could the co-operative system be arranged. Quite simple, there are a number of people now who have this pretty well studied out.

First we will take the farming industry. They are beginning to see how much better it is for them to sell their products co-operatively than individually, and they will soon begin to see how they can buy their supplies co-operatively to a great advantage, so they will also find out that farming co-operatively will still be more to their advantage on account of churches, schools, roads, and mutual help, less equipment, better use of machinery, and numerous other mutual advantages. Then with all the industries, callings and occupations organized and operated on a co-operative basis, and each person receiving a time check for every hour employed, with all goods produced stored in warehouses and only time checks receivable for any goods; then only those possessing time checks could procure any wealth. (And that must be our ultimate aim.)

Now you will ask how can the people achieve all this. Well, I cannot tell exactly how it will be accomplished but I think I can outline a plan by which it can be done intelligently, wisely and peaceably—by and through the ballot, also without any bloody revolution, and which will elevate society more than all the bloody revolutions of past history; yes, on a higher plane than but few individuals have ever imagined. Suppose the Labor Party take the stand that our ultimate goal is, first, equal opportunities for all children, rich and poor, for an education until twenty years of age. Second, equal remuneration for every person engaged in any and all necessary work and service for society, and the abolition of all laws for the accumulation of wealth, otherwise than by rendering some essentially necessary service to society.

Then, we should have a political code of principles or platform which every member should take a solemn pledge to stand by, vote, and work for.

Then, the Labor Party should start a system of study circles, or economic associations, whereby they would educate themselves, in regard to their rights, duties and responsibilities as citizens. In a democracy, the government can only

reflect the intelligence of the average voter. For how can the voters know who to send to make laws for them, unless they know what they want? So the only way possible for any people to have a pure, honest and just government, is to have intelligent, enlightened, and honest voters. In fact, true political economy should be taught in the schools.

The whole world is now in such a state and condition of political, social, and economic chaos, unrest, turmoil, unemployment, poverty, crime, and social demoralization, amongst a large number of the wealth producers, on one hand, whilst on the other, millionaires are being multiplied as never before. Therefore, it should be plain to all thoughtful minds, that, if society has not the vision and intelligence, soon to make a vast change for the better, they will soon be face to face with the most dreadful bloody revolution which has ever deluged this earth, and which may be the downfall of this whole civilization, with a relapse into the worst condition of barbarism and despotism that ever existed.

Hence it behooves this generation to do some clear and sound thinking. Not only this, but to translate the same into wise and speedy action, if what there is good in the present so-called civilization is to be preserved.

Now friends, pardon me for submitting a synopsis of a code of principles or platform which if put into operation, will eradicate the evils of the present system, which enables the few idlers to pile up millions and live in the lap of luxury, and which pauperizes the millions of honest workers.

It is only the wealth producers themselves who can establish such a system, and if they fail to do so they and their posterity will be the sufferers, but when it will be everlastingly too late.

I believe that the Almighty, in breathing all these grand improvements and labor-saving, scientific inventions, into the minds of men, meant them to be used for the good of all the people, and if the people do not use them to that end, they will inevitably use them for their own destruction. So it behooves us to make the proper use of these grand blessings.

Now a few words to those who claim to be Christians, and we are vastly in the majority. The Christian religion

says, "Love your neighbor as yourself." That is, do unto all others as we would wish them to do to us. Now compare those principles with the way people must, and do, act under the present dog-eat-dog system, with everyone doing his best to get ahead of, and take advantage of, everybody else. That is, everybody for themselves and the devil take the hindmost. And the vast majority get left.

Now we can have a system of society whereby every person advancing the interest of their neighbor, will best contribute to the advancement of their own interest at the same time. The present system engenders and fosters all the selfish propensities in human nature, so that we are now in the most selfish age that ever existed, that is, selfishness personified.

The present system is a conglomeration, a net work of schemes, thought out by the shrewdest minds and smartest schemers of centuries, enabling the few to rob the many, with those schemes enacted into law.

So I claim that under the present system, it is utterly impossible for a person to make a success in business and be a true and practical Christian. Hence the almost universal poverty and destitution, coupled with unemployment, misery, degradation and crime, rampant throughout the so-called civilized world, with a few wealthy, corrupt, overlord profligates on the other hand, neither true civilization or Christianity—but civilized barbarism—under which the evils will continue to increase until the majority of the people make a change for the better. And the longer they postpone the change the more costly it will be. In every great crisis in the world's history in the past, the people have had timely warning of their impending doom, but heeded not the warning, consequently they suffered accordingly. So let us be wise in time.

THERE ARE NINETY AND NINE.

There are ninety and nine that work and dig
In want and hunger and cold,
That one may live in luxury,
And be lapped in the silken fold;
And ninety and nine in their hovels bare
And one in a palace of riches rare.

From the sweat of their brows the desert blooms,
And the forest before them falls;
Their labor has builded humble homes,
And cities with lofty halls.
And the one holds cities and houses and lands,
And the ninety and nine have empty hands.

But the night so dreary and dark and long
At last shall the morning bring;
And over the land the victors' song
Of the ninety and nine shall ring,
And echo afar, from zone to zone,
Rejoice! for the labor shall have its own.

There can be wealth enough produced five hours per day, five days a week and ten months in the year, to give every family of five persons the equivalent of at least over twenty-five hundred dollars a year. If all persons who work were getting the social result of their labor they would be in possession of an abundance of wealth, but when they are compelled to support so many idlers in luxury, there is little wonder that they have not much left for themselves. But the wealth producers need not expect that a better system and condition of society will come of itself, or be brought about by the classes who are profiting by the present state of affairs. No, self-interest being the prevailing principle governing human actions of those who understand what is to their interest—and the predatory classes understand good and well what is to their interest—and will fight with might and main every move to dislodge them from the backs of the toilers. So, those who work are finding out that they and they alone are the producers of all wealth—many of them are getting wise to the absurdity of allowing the few to take over control and enjoyment of the bulk of the wealth.

It would seem that many trade unionists are satisfied to let this state of affairs drift and drag along so long as they can look down at the common laborer, who has no trade, getting less than themselves, if they, by combining in their craft or trade get a little better wage. Now, that seems to

be a selfish, narrow, mean, unchristian, inhuman way to view society.

I was called on in Chicago about forty years ago to give an address at a carpenters' union meeting, and took for my text that the person doing the hardest, the dirtiest, or most laborious work by right should receive the greatest compensation. When I stated my subject I was greeted with shouts of "Throw him out, throw him out!"

But some cooler heads prevailed, saying, "We invited this man here, and should not condemn him without a hearing." I occupied about an hour explaining different points, some of which were, that if all common workers got equal or even greater compensation than the various trades, that that would not take a cent out of their pockets, but it would put just that much more money in circulation, also enable those people and their families to live that much better, making that much more demand for food, clothing and shelter; for the necessities and comforts of life; more demand for the farmers' produce, enabling the farmers to build more and better houses and barns, thus making more work for carpenters and others. These people could build or rent better houses, making that much more demand for carpenters, so that instead of working for twenty-five cents an hour as they were then, and ten hours, they might get down to eight hours per day and up to fifty cents an hour. At the close I called for all who agreed with me to stand up. All stood up but two, then I called for the contrary, but the two kept their seats. This incident is related in order to show how little some people use their reasoning powers.

So, Mr. Trade Unionist, I would advise you to wake up, use your reasoning faculties, join with all other wealth producers to inaugurate a system by and through which all may receive three or four times the reward you get now.

Now, a few words to those who have lost faith in the ballot: (And there is quite an excuse for them on account of the corruption of present politics, in which some capitalistic members of parliaments and congress spend from ten thousand to a hundred thousand dollars to get elected, this

money being mostly contributed by the money power. So when such men are elected they are bound to be subservient tools of monopoly, and the campaign of our progressives, farmers and labor members only amounted to from three to four hundred dollars each, contributed by their brother farmers and labor men. Then the stealing and stuffing of ballot boxes, voting people who are dead, also voting others who have left the country years ago, and every imaginable fraud committed and winked at secretly by both the old political parties so that their very names are a stench in the nostrils of all honest people.) When all the wealth producers carefully select their candidates, pledged to correct principles and send them to the halls of legislation, instructed what to do, my word for it you will get it done, and the ballot can be made a complete success. And when you capture the government you will have control of the army, the navy, the militia, courts, and every institution, and can make such changes as may seem best to the interests and well being of society. Now, of course, there is one contingency, that is, the plutocratic powers may refuse to vacate, but if they do then God help the capitalists—they will be shot down and slaughtered like wild beasts.

Now a few words for my Christian friends who appear to be quite contented with the present dog-eat-dog system. The Christian religion says, "Love God above all for His own sake," and "Love your neighbor as yourself by doing unto all others as you would that they should do unto you." It also says our neighbor is all mankind. Now, this is the golden rule and cannot be improved upon. No, you may take all the laws that were ever written. Yes, you may gather and keep gathering until your pile is as broad at the base and towers to the apex of the Egyptian pyramids, you will find nothing, you can find nothing juster than this. It is *justice* in its absolute perfection.

Now what would become of any person who would try to live according to the Golden Rule under the present system of our boasted civilization? After having Christianity preach brotherly love throughout the world for nearly twenty centuries, still Christians are amongst the staunchest upholders

of the present rotten, robber, system and this appears to be a mighty lever in the possession of unbelievers against Christianity, especially amongst the workers. I saw it recently stated by a minister that nine-tenths of the work people of Protestant denominations in England never enter a church. Is it not time for true Christian people to wake up?

Dear Christian, if you will just ponder a little on the Lord's prayer, said to be taught by the founder of Christianity Himself, you will find that we are taught to pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Now, do you believe that Christ taught us to pray for something that He never wished to come to pass or that which is an impossibility? Also, all the favors we ask in that prayer are all asked in the plural, that is, for others as well as ourselves. Selfishness is left out completely. Now we are living in an age, an epoch, a time when Christianity is divided into hundreds of different denominations, also many do not profess Christianity, and this when it is imperatively necessary for all good people to act in unison in making this a better world to live in. Christianity is not to blame for this but the non-Christian lives lived by the vast masses of professing Christians, and our religion tells us: "Not he who saith Lord, Lord shall be saved but they who do the will of My Father." So we must live Christianity to expect to reap the benefits and blessings thereof, even temporally as well as spiritually. We should wisely cast all differences to the winds for the moment, unite our forces, consult together regardless of creed, color or previous nationality in order to establish a system of society founded on Equity, Justice and Brotherhood. And under such a system I claim true Christianity would flourish before the evils of the present system—which is the money power, the capitalistic forces—precipitate another world war, which if it is brought about will be fifty times more destructive than the last and which will perhaps destroy this whole civilization and on the ruins be erected the worst despotism that ever existed. This from the fact that despots will have the experience of the past to build on and also that the more intelligent and educated a people are the more despotic the government must be to keep them in subjection.

So good people I beg, beseech and implore you to awake, arise and help to wake up your neighbors that all may go into the good work before the last link is forged in the chain of despotism.

Now a few words to the good woman of the present: You have as much interest in this movement, if not more, than we men, and since you have the franchise, have the same responsibility, and I hope you will make a more intelligent use of citizenship than men have done in the past, using, as they have, their citizenship in the interest of blind partyism. Now remember I am not appealing to the women of the ruling and robber classes; not to the so-called middle classes whose main aim is to ape the style, habits and customs of the idle rich, but to the women of the industrialists, the farmers and city workers who, by their toil, produce the wealth of the world, the bulk of which is enjoyed by the idlers, and filched from the producers by man-made laws. Remember that the man and woman who do not make use of citizenship wisely commits a crime against themselves, against their children, against their neighbors, against their country, and also future generations; hence we should be very, very careful how we discharge our responsibility in that respect, and it is amazing and degrading the amount of the corruption of the ballot which comes to light in both the old political parties (and that is nothing to that which is covered up), so that the corruption and crookedness of politicians is both amazing and disgusting. It is not much wonder that some people have given up all hope in that direction. Now, my good brothers and sisters, I believe firmly that if the wealth-producers turn over a new leaf politically, as some are inclined to do, and adopt a plan, something as set forth in this little work, the change they will be able to make for the better in society will be amazing to themselves, and if the writer can assist even in a small way he will be thankful that his life was cast in the present epoch. And, oh were I possessed of a thousand tongues and could speak in tones of thunder, gladly would I employ such powers to help wake up my fellow-workers before it is everlastingly too late.

I hope the plan outlined in this little work may be the

means of starting the people to establish a just, equitable, reasonable, commonsense, yes, and Christian system of society, instead of the chaos now in existence all over this planet. As I write information comes from Great Britain that everything there is in chaos owing to a disagreement between the miners and the so-called mine owners. So the government steps in on the side of the mine owners and outlaws the strike. The men who run the government are the men largely who claim to own the mines but as labor has no more sense than to elect the men, who are robbing them, to run the government, they should expect to be robbed. If the labor people in Britain at the last election had exercised common sense they would have avoided all this trouble but as long as wily, political tricksters succeed in dividing them, the innocent must suffer with the guilty. Oh, labor people of the world wake up, unite, act wisely and when you do you will be the richest people in the world. Why do you stand in your own light by voting the rich into power, that they may continue to rob you? Do you not know that all the wealth possessed by the rich has been produced by the workers and if not filched from them by class laws would be in the possession of those who produced it? One would think a ten year old child could understand that! It does not take much reflection to see that the present social, economic and political system is in the interest of capitalism and against the interest of labor—they cannot be mended but must be ended—and a system of true co-operation put in its place. Now in order to do this we must become possessed of the means which the capitalists use in our subjection. By and through government the capitalists take to themselves the wealth which the workers produce. The workers are vastly in the majority in every country and can take possession of all governments as soon as they are united and vote in their own interests, so there is no use blaming the capitalists. They are using their intelligence to have things run in their own best interests, and they sure know how to do this to a nicety, all right.

Recently we have men coming out in favor of a living wage. Oh, yes! Dr. Ryan & Co., by all means keep the workers alive for *dead workers* support no *living parasites*! What

the wealth producers are after is the full social equivalent of what they produce and that can only be had under a purely co-operative system. Therefore the first essential move is for the wealth producers to take possession of that machine called government, they will then have all other institutions on their side: the army, the navy, the militia, the courts, the universities, colleges, schools, yes, and churches, will all function in our interest when we have the common sense to capture the government. In the meantime we must study how to run the government in our own interest as well as all the minor institutions, because if we were to run things in the same old way, as now, we would only get the same results. We should commence by unloading the heaviest burdens first—interest, rent and profits are about the worst.

When there is money enough in circulation to transact all business on a cash basis—that will stop all interest.

Second, Land—The government should secure to each person, free, what land they can use as a farmer, and every worker in town, city, shop or railroad, etc., should be allotted a reasonable plot of land free on which to build a home. That would practically settle the rent problem.

Government must take over all railroads, yes, and all means of production, distribution as well as exchange and communication and see to it that no normal person gets a living except by performing some necessary service for the common good. Scripture says if a man won't work neither shall he eat.

So I herewith submit a synopsis of a platform taken from my first booklet, "Daylight on the Money and Banking Questions," published in 1922, here appended and which with some additions would be suitable for a National platform. Then every person nominated for any legislative office should take the most solemn oath that if elected he will do all in his power to carry out the principles embodied in the platform. The so-called direct legislation, the initiative, referendum and recall should be enacted into law as soon as possible. Electoral divisions should be made to enable the people to carry out proportional representation so that all industries can have fair representation in all legislative bodies. The day and age

of political parties to properly represent the people geographically is past and they must be represented industrially. Consequently they must be organized industrially instead of in craft unions. Next to getting a livelihood, therefore, organization and education on correct principles is the most important work confronting the wealth producers of this important era. The wage earners are moving slowly in the right direction, so are the farmers, but the forces of capitalism are moving ten times faster in the opposite direction in the enslavement of the wealth producers. So if this civilization is to be saved and a dark gloomy night of despotism warded off, the people must wake up from their lethargy and heedless indifference before the catastrophe is upon them. Behold the dictatorships already being set up in Europe in one country after another. Also see the collapse of the big strike in Great Britain as well as the conniving of the government there with every branch of capitalism—a government made possible by the wealth producers. How stupid some people are, or will nothing wake them up to see their own interests, and to work and vote for it, regardless of how their enemies advise them. Any person who works for a living, who votes a capitalist ticket votes directly against his own best interest and the interest of every other person who performs any necessary service for society and commits treason against themselves and their own class whether they realize it or not. We now find that the so-called two great republics, France and the United States, amongst the worst despotisms now existent, and the majority of the poor deluded people appear to imagine that they are free. See the United States, now the leading financial power in the world, all filched from the wealth producers in the short space of 150 years, and the poor deluded people pride themselves on being free; where the industrious many are annually paying over to the idle, scheming few over one billion dollars in interest alone, besides the hundreds of millions they get through rent and profit. These are the means by which the money power, the bankers and bond holders are enabled to make loans nearly all over the world, so that they may draw tribute from all the workers throughout the world.

There is being found in various countries relics of former civilizations of which we have no historical evidence. But of the Roman, the Grecian and other civilizations of which history tells us that once flourished, history informs us that immediately previous to their downfall, the bulk of the wealth was concentrated in the possession of the few, and the vast majority were reduced to a condition of hopeless poverty, degradation, want and misery. Now the same causes produce similar effects at one time as another, and in one country as in others, under the same circumstances. So it is only by circumstances differing somewhat in different times and places which hastens or retards results. Now pardon me if I point the reader to some books which are good sources of information. First take Cobbett's "History of the Reformation," also Myers' "History of Canadian Wealth," and Myers' "History of Great American Fortunes." Then, "Our Dishonest Constitution," by A. C. Benson, also "The Menace of Privilege," by Henry George, Junior, in 1907. And last but not least, "Imperial Washington," by ex-Senator Pettigrew, published recently. Of course there are many other good sources of information but those mentioned are the best which I am aware of, not forgetting Edward Bellamy's works, "Looking Backward," and "Equality."

Some sayings of some wise statesmen, which we would do well to heed: "That is the real issue which will continue in this country when these poor tongues of Judge Douglas and myself shall be stilled, it is the eternal struggle between these two principles, right and wrong. Throughout the world they are the two principles that have stood face to face from the beginning of time, the one the common right of humanity, the other the divine right of privilege. It is the same principle, in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit which says, you toil, work and produce wealth and I'll possess and enjoy it"—Abraham Lincoln in 1856. An extract from Lincoln's message to Congress: "Monarchy is sometimes hinted at as a refuge from the power of the people. In my present position I would scarcely be justified were I to omit exercising a warning voice against returning despotism. There is one point to which I ask attention: It is the

effort to place capital on an equal footing with, if not above, labor, in the structure of the government. I bid the laboring people to beware of surrendering a power which they already possess, and which, when surrendered, will surely be used to close the door of advancement to them and fix new disabilities and burdens upon them till all of liberty shall be lost." Hear Lincoln again: "Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and never could have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is much the superior and deserves much the higher consideration."

Thomas Jefferson said, "I am not among those who fear the people, they and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom." Now listen to the capitalist's side of the subject from the New York World newspaper: "The American laborer must make up his mind henceforth not to be so much better off than the European laborer, he must be content to work for less wages. In this way the working man will be nearer to that station in life to which it has pleased God to call him."

The New York Irish World in 1879 quoted the London Times as follows: "An inexhaustible supply of labor has so long been a condition of our social system, whether in town or country, whether for work or pleasure, that it remains to be seen whether a great enhancement of labor would not disturb our industrial, and even our political arrangements to a serious extent. Two men have been after one master so long that they are not prepared for the day when two masters will be after one man, for it is not certain either, that the masters can carry on their own business as well, or that men will comport themselves properly under a new regime. Commercial enterprise, business, and social development require an actual increase in population, and also that the increase shall be in the most serviceable part of the population, for otherwise it would not be at the command of capital." That is to say, that if the condition of the workers is made better, they would not be so docile, they will be more independent.

The same author quotes an eminent English statesman, Lord Huskinson, as using the following words in his place in the English parliament: "To give capital a fair remunera-

tion, labor must be kept in subjection." An extract from the New York Times, August 12, 1877—farmers and workers read it: "There seems to be but one remedy and it must come—a change of ownership of the soil, and a creation of a class of owners, landlords on the one hand, and of tenant farmers on the other, such as exists now in the older countries of Europe. Everything is ripening for the change. Few farmers can hope to provide their sons with farms of their own, and then will begin a new era in agriculture which seems very desirable." Quoting from the Bankers' Magazine, we find the following: "Capital must protect itself in every possible manner through combination and legislation. Debts must be collected, bonds and mortgages must be foreclosed as rapidly as possible, when, through the process of law the common people have lost their homes they will be more tractable, and more easily governed through the strong arm of the government, applied by a central power of wealth, under the control of leading financiers. A people without homes are not likely to quarrel with their rulers."

So you see that the money powers are not merely letting matters drift. Daniel Webster said, "Liberty cannot long exist in any country where the tendency of the laws concentrate the wealth in the possession of the few," and practically the bulk of the laws under the present system are aids in that direction, and sad to say but few wealth producers take time to study such matters. In fact when a person works ten hours a day, which many are compelled to do yet (when they can get a job), and frequently it takes from one to two hours to go to and from their work, so after he looks at the evening paper, he hasn't much time nor inclination to study political, economic or social affairs, but is likely to swallow the bunk, trash, fallacies and falsehoods, dished up to him by the scheming politicians and their henchmen, in the daily press. And the farmer who works generally from fifteen to sixteen hours a day, his wife also, have little time to study the questions of the day, and I know both sides from experience. But, thank goodness, the farmers and other workers are fast getting their eyes opened politically, and as Abraham Lincoln well said, "You can fool all the people some of the time, and

some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time."

Now, dear reader, I submit a synopsis of a platform or code of principles, mainly taken from my first booklet, "Day-light on the Money and Banking Questions," published in 1920, which has had a big circulation. Said code of principles with, perhaps, some changes and additions, would serve as a national platform, and the state, or provincial and city platforms can be constructed to conform therewith. We should grapple with the greatest evils first, and I believe that the wealth producers are defrauded worse by the present money and banking system than any other evil of the capitalist system, because you can form no idea of present industry, enterprise, commerce or business without that thing called money. I think it was Aristotle who said that "money is that marvelous instrument to which we are principally indebted for our civilization."

Yes, let me make, issue and control the volume of the money of a country and I care not who may make that country's laws. I care not what the form, nature or principle of the country's government, or superior intelligence and high ideals of the people, I can control the press, and through such agency *create* and *mould* public opinion in my own interests through my mouthpieces and watchdogs—the editors and writers—with fallacies, misrepresentation, ridicule, and vituperation. I can blast the standing, reputation and influence of the greatest intellects and noblest patriots who dare oppose my sway, and can make the people believe that their best friends are their worst enemies and vice versa. The legal lights will shape the law to suit my purpose, the courts will construct and interpret such laws in my interest, whilst by bestowing or withholding financial favors, I can blast or prosper any and every enterprise, public or private, and compel all industry, commerce and enterprise, to pay me tribute. And the people hail me as their benefactor. Such is the power of those who control the money system, so that no improvement or enterprise even scarcely a school house or church can be built without consulting the usurer.

Hearken to such statements as the following: Thomas

Jefferson said: "I sincerely believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to liberty than standing armies." Now listen to Andrew Jackson: "The mischief springs from the power which the moneyed interests derive from the issue and control of money, which they are able to control, corporations with exclusive privileges which they have obtained from the government, and which are employed exclusively to their own benefit, and unless you become more watchful and check this spirit of monopoly and thirst for exclusive privileges you will in the end find that the most omnipotent powers of government have been bartered away, and control over your dearest interests has passed into the hands of the corporations—the money system and its natural association."

Now listen to that wise and far seeing statesman, Abraham Lincoln, shortly before he fell a victim to the assassin's bullet: "I see in the near future a crisis which unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war, corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until perhaps all of liberty is lost. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than even in the midst of the late war. God grant that my predictions may prove groundless." Then O. P. Morton, member of Congress from Indiana, shortly after that, said on the floor of the house: "There is gathered around the capital of this nation a gang of miserable stock jobbers, with no more conscience than pirates inspired solely by a greed for gain, and they have thundered successfully at these doors until they have driven this government into the most preposterous acts of bad faith and legalized robbery that ever oppressed a people since the dawn of history." S. P. Chase, who was Secretary of the Treasury under Lincoln, shortly before he died, said: "My agency in establishing the national banking system was the greatest mistake of my life, it has built up a monopoly in this country which before it is overthrown, the money power will be arrayed on one side and the common people on the other in such a contest as this country has never seen."

Note the following: "Slavery is likely to be abolished by the war power and chattel slavery destroyed. This, I and my European friends are in favor of, for slavery is but the owning of labor, and carries with it the care for the laborer, while the European plan, led by England, is capital control of labor by controlling wages. This can be done by controlling the money and (keeping it scarce) it will not do to allow the government paper money to circulate any length of time, for bankers cannot control that, but we can control the bonds and through them the bank issues."—Hazzards London bank circular sent to the American bankers in 1862. The reason I quote so much matter on this point is because I know that the money problem affects the wealth producers more than anything else, and should be the first problem grappled with and properly solved, hence I place it at the head of the platform:

1. That the government shall make and issue a full legal tender, perfect paper money, and put it into circulation—

(a) by exchanging it, dollar for dollar, for the various kinds of money now in existence within a stated time in the near future, say six months;

(b) by paying all its current expenses in this new money;

(c) by paying it out for all necessary public improvements, until money is so plentiful amongst the people that no person will need to borrow and pay even one per cent for the use of a public utility;

(d) that all money and banking business be taken over and operated by the government, in the interest of the people, as is the postal department, and all other banking laws repealed, and all laws for the collection of debts repealed.

Now observe what the London Times had to say in regard to a perfect government paper money: "If that mischievous financial policy which had its origin in the North American Republic during the late civil war in that country, should become indurated down to a fixture, then that government will furnish its own money at cost. It will pay off its debts and be without a debt. It will have all the money necessary to carry on its industry, and commerce (without borrow-

ing from bankers and bondholders) and will become prosperous beyond knowledge in the history of the civilized governments of the world. The brains and the wealth of all countries will go to North America. That government must be destroyed, or it will destroy every monarchy on the face of the globe."

Note.—For a concise and sound explanation on money and banking read the two 25c pamphlets, namely: "Daylight on the Money and Banking System," and "The People's Financial Catechism," by your humble servant, and I claim to be master of that subject, which is quite simple when a person understands it.

2. Land: Whereas our present land laws are in conflict with natural law and social justice, and many students of modern political economy (who have not a knowledge of the money evil) believe them to be the greatest evil of the capitalist system, the government should pass a law that on and after a certain date all titles to land except for use shall be null and void, and secure to each citizen their share of the same for use; that use and occupancy shall be the only title; that there be no tax on land, but instead a tax on privileged locations. Supposing "A" lives close to town and market, but "B" lives several miles from town and market, their land being of the same productivity, but it costs "B" \$100 annually more than "A" to do his town business, then "A" should pay the government the difference for the privilege he enjoys over "B." Governments should assist and encourage co-operative farming, especially on account of schools, and community, social and other great advantages.

3. Natural resources: As the earth, and everything in, on, and connected with it is the free gift of the Creator to all mankind, therefore all man-made laws enabling individuals or groups of individuals to speculate in and exploit the same, to the injury of society, are unjust and should be repealed. Therefore, all minerals, timber and other natural resources, should be held sacred, and administered democratically in the interest of the people.

4. Public utilities: That all railways, telegraphs, and all other public utilities should be taken over and operated by

the government in the best interests of the people, that all corporation charters be annulled and all such necessary business to be operated by some department of governments.

5. That the salaries of all public agents be the same as the wages of those engaged in any and every industry. This would largely destroy the incentive to office seeking, place hunting and political corruption. That the same degree of efficiency, capability and honesty be required in all government service, as in private enterprise.

6. That the sacredness of the ballot be guarded by heavy penalties; that the supreme government only, confer the franchise; that there be no property qualification on citizenship, or candidacy, relics of a bygone age, and in Canada substitute the term citizen for subject; that election laws in Canada be revised so as to permit at least three months between nominations and election, allowing time to examine and discuss all necessary public questions.

7. That our school system be remodelled so as to enable all children the opportunity of a first class education, (a) by raising the school age to 18 years; (b) by teaching all necessary trades, occupations, and callings in the schools, so that each child may cultivate its natural abilities and desires, in order to qualify it to fill some necessary calling or occupation successfully in after life; (c) that in schools all children over 14 years be taught true political economy, from the most modern advanced thought of democracy, including the rights, duties and responsibilities of citizenship, also have lessons in our school books explanatory of co-operation, and industrial unionism, and democracy in industrialism.

8. That six hours shall constitute a legal day's work in all departments of labor, except farming, for a few weeks in seeding, and harvest and threshing time.

9. That tariff is a tax on all wealth producers, and paid by them and must be gradually abolished as soon as possible.

10. That all legislative bodies shall consist of but one house elected by the people, and the veto power be taken from the heads of all departments, and assumed, and exer-

cised by the voters, through the adoption of the initiative, referendum, and recall, and the system of proportional representation.

11. That militarism be discouraged, as war is ever made by, and in the interest of, money kings, and capitalist speculators, forcing slaughter and destruction on the common people without their consent. Consequently all war except in self defence is murder.

12. That our prison system be so remodelled and conducted more as reformatory institutions, and that the inmates or their dependents should receive the results of their labor, except their board and lodging.

13. That each person over 55 or 60 years old receive a pension enabling them to live in comfort.

14. That our judicial system be so remodelled that all court judges be elected by the people for reasonably short terms, eligible for re-election; that the death penalty be abolished, as the command, "Thou shalt not kill," applies to judicial murder, as well as other murders; that courts be deprived of power to declare any law unconstitutional which has been enacted by any competent legislative body.

15. That the medical profession be under government supervision, known as the health department, the chief of this department should be elected by the people, and candidates for said office to have no connection with any particular school of medicine, and those physicians who prove most successful in healing diseases, and preserving health, be specially rewarded.

16. That rights of free speech, free press, and free assembly shall not be prohibited, abridged, or curtailed under any circumstances.

17. That the rights of all citizens and their families to religious belief and practice shall always be maintained.

18. That the laws of the commonwealth be as few and as plainly written as possible so the average citizen may easily understand them.

19. That a graduated income tax be levied on all incomes over \$3,000 commencing at ten per cent, and increasing on every additional thousand.

THESE THINGS SHALL BE

These things shall be—a loftier race
Than e'er the world hath known shall rise
With flame of freedom in their souls,
And light of knowledge in their eyes.

They shall be gentle, brave and strong
To spill no drop of blood, but dare
All that may plant man's lordship firm
On earth, and fire and sea, and air.

Nation with nation, land with land,
Unarmed shall live as comrades free;
In every heart and brain shall throb
The pulse of one fraternity.

New arts shall bloom of loftier mould,
And mightier music thrill the skies,
And every life shall be a song
When all the earth is paradise.

If the farmers and city workers who now produce an abundance of the necessities, comforts, and luxuries for human society, and permit the few idlers to possess and enjoy the same, have the good sense and wisdom to immediately commence, and inaugurate, and improve on the principles herein set forth, they can save what is good in this tottering civilization, but they have no time to lose.

They should start by having every person standing for nomination in convention pledged by the most solemn oath that if elected they will work and vote earnestly to have the above measures enacted into law, and carried into effect, or resign, according to the principles of the recall.

APPENDIX

The man or woman who votes for a candidate of the old political parties, votes directly against his or her own interests, and also against the interests of every other person who lives by honest toil; so you see, that is a crime that any person should be ashamed of. Unfortunately, there are men in the Labor Movement, who are looked upon as leaders, who try to make the enemies of Labor believe that they can for the consideration of a few dollars, or some personal favor, turn over other Labor votes to the common enemy. Such men are traitors, and should be despised by all honest people. Then there are others, who say that the Labor Party is not strong enough, and who feel they would be losing their votes if they were cast for Labor. Believe me, a vote for principle is never lost. Is it not wiser to vote for something you want, and not get it, than to vote for something you don't want, and get it?

On the 14th of this month, there will be an election in Canada, and, sad to say, many workers will vote for the tools and agents of Capitalism, who may be described as the two wings of that foul bird Monopoly, of which the Money Power is the head and body. Now, the present Capitalistic system robs the workers of at least two-thirds of the wealth they produce, and enables the idle rich to possess and enjoy the same, and you, farmer, and city worker, who vote for the old political party candidates, make this possible; but the worst of it is that the innocent must suffer with the guilty; that is, those who vote right, they and their families must suffer the consequences of your foolish exercise of the franchise. Now, Mr. Foolish Voter, try to imagine yourself in our place, and see how you would feel over the situation. All the Capitalists' candidates care about Laborers or Farmers is to get their votes to boost them into an office with a good salary and party emoluments, with hopes and aspirations of leadership, and they will promise Fool Voters anything to get votes.

SOME EVILS OF THE MONEY SYSTEM

We have it on the authority of historians and records of Christianity that all payment for the use of money was condemned by the Christian church from its earliest days until the fifteenth century, and up to that time the least fraction of what we now call interest for money was condemned as usury.

The Bible tells us that the only time the "Founder of Christianity" displayed anger or used force was when He overturned the tables of the money changers, and whipped them out of the temple. It also is noteworthy that the many woes and maledictions that He pronounced against wicked people were against the rich, the oppressors of the poor—the lawyers, and the blind leaders of the blind. Today we find the money changers in the front pews of our fashionable churches and the poor are thrust into the back seats or left outside, and alas! it causes millions of them to stay outside.

SOME CORRECT IDEAS ON MONEY

Money is a creation of law and the value of the thing upon which money is stamped has no relation whatever to its money value. This nonsense about gold basis and that gold is the money of the world, and that paper money must be based on gold is all camouflage, to throw dust in the eyes of the people in order to keep money scarce.

Credit, Debt, Notes, Bonds, and Mortgages are substitutes for money, caused by the scarcity. All these will be eliminated under a system of plenty of money at cost.

THE PRESS

This work would be very incomplete were I to omit warning the reader against the insidious, misleading and poisonous influence of the vile capitalist press, whose editors,

writers and managers are simply the mouthpieces and watchdogs of the money power and all other monopolies which are fleecing the wealth producers. In 1878 William Windom, then senator from Minnesota, stated publicly that the money power had bought the whole press of the nation and were controlling all the avenues of intelligence. Not long after that, at a banquet of an editors' convention held in New York, a toast was proposed to the Independent Press.

John Swinton, an editor on one of the leading New York papers, being called on to respond to the toast, arose and spoke as follows: "Gentlemen, you know, and I know, that there is no such thing as an independent press; you know, and I know, that I am paid \$125 a week for keeping my honest opinions out of the paper I am writing for, and you are paid similar salaries for similar services; and what nonsense in toasting an Independent Press. Why, if my honest opinion appeared in one issue of the paper, I would be out on the street looking for a job. We are the tools of other men behind the scenes. We are mere jumping jacks; they pull the strings and we dance. Our brains, our talents are the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes." John Swinton never wrote another article for the Tribune—he was bounced next day. Then he at once started a little four-page paper, and for two years he told the people more important facts than they were ever told before. Swinton died and the paper went down. I read the first copy of the paper and the last, and I think every one between, so I speak from knowledge.

Reader, read and ponder on the following:

**ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CAPITALISTS
ENGINEERED THE WAR**

(By the Federated Press)

PARIS.—The house of J. P. Morgan & Co., with the assistance of England, forced France to continue in the great war in order to grind out profits from millions of human lives. The sordid tale of international capitalism is

told in the first volume of a history of the war by Gabriel Hanotaux, minister of foreign affairs from 1892 to 1898, and an eminent historian.

The financiers, to keep France fighting their war, Hanotaux proves, promised in the fall of 1914 to bring the United States immediately into the conflict. Then they double-crossed France, and neglected to betray their own country. This was done with the assistance of Great Britain. And the same company, still in the driver's seat of the world's cortege, is now offering to "restore" France—at 7 per cent. interest.

After the first battle of the Marne, in the fall of 1914, which was evidently not such a brilliant success as it has been painted, France was eager to make peace with Germany. The plan was instantly nipped in the bud. Neutral diplomats at London got wind of it, and immediately a British ultimatum was sent to Bordeaux, threatening France with a blockade if she left the fight.

By undisputable documentary evidence, Hanotaux proves that it was an American member of the house of J. P. Morgan & Co., that started the fatal machinery going in August, 1914, and then kept it grinding out millions of human lives for more than four years.

At the time of the decision in the fall there were in Paris Robert Bacon, of the house of Morgan, foreign minister; Myron T. Herrick, retiring minister, and William G. Sharp, the new minister. These three men made an actual contract with France that if she would remain in the war, they would see that America came in at once, it is asserted.

"There are at present only 50,000 'influential' men in the United States who want war," they said, "but give us a little time and there will be 100,000 dead-set for it."

Hanotaux declares that the sum which was provided to arouse the people of the United States to war is too large even for American comprehension.

My Dear Readers, I have outlined in this pamphlet, a platform, which is far superior to anything yet presented in your interests; but there is one special obstacle which will tend to prevent its accomplishment. This obstacle is the existence of secret societies, which are brought into being and controlled by the enemies of Labor, and which generally claim to be extra patriotic. It is a regrettable fact that very many working men who profess to believe in Labor Unions, are also members of these secret societies, and if every individual reader will ask himself the question, many of them, I am sure, will have to admit that at some time or another, they have voted for a political candidate just because he was a member of their society, even though he ran under Liberal or Conservative colors, which are alike, the sworn enemies of Labor.

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AN INVITATION FOR DISCUSSION

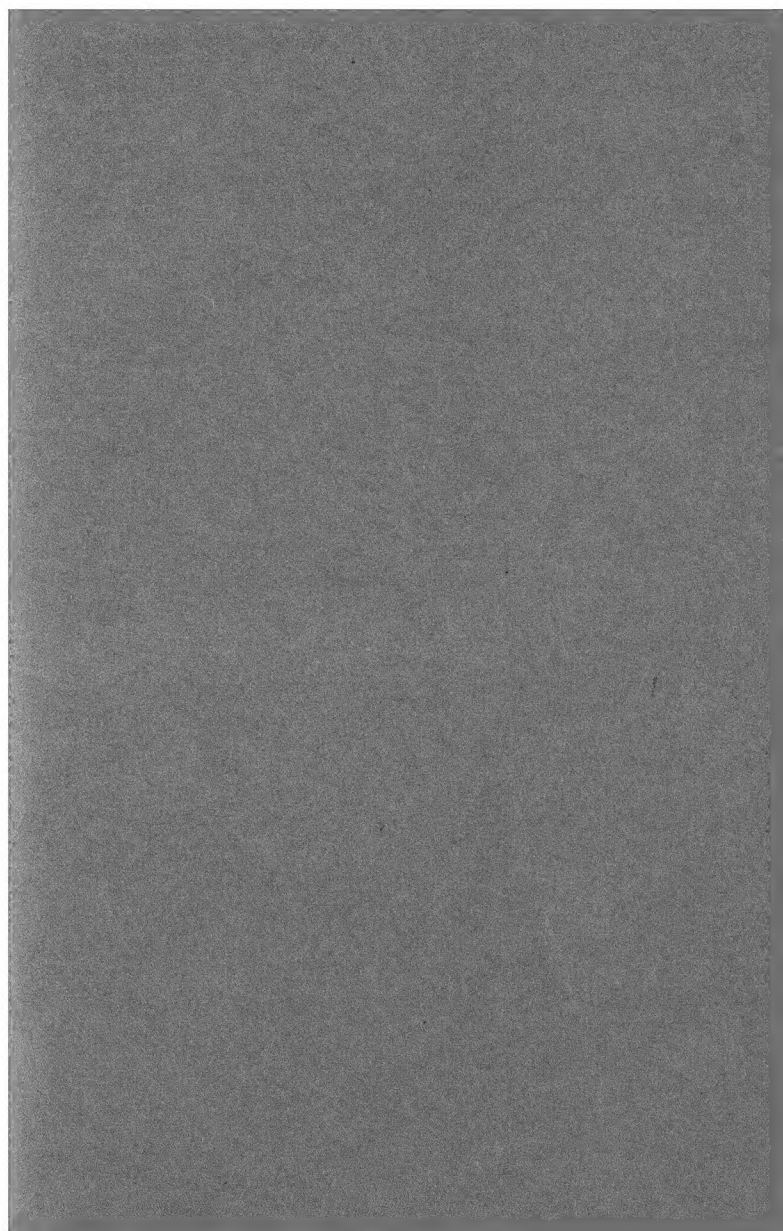
The writer is prepared to discuss or debate the present money system before the public with any banker, or lawyer, college or university professor, on the following terms:

I will procure the hall and properly advertise the meeting. The decision to be by majority vote of the audience who have heard the whole discussion, and if the decision is in my opponent's favor it will cost him nothing but his effort; but he must agree that if the audience decides against him, he will defray the incurred expense. The question to be stated thus:

"Resolved, that the present money and banking system robs the wealth producers more than any other evil of the present system, and largely aids and intensifies many other evils."

I to take the affirmative and open the discussion in a talk of fifteen minutes; then my opponent to have fifteen minutes, and each fifteen minutes alternately, until my opponent is satisfied, then the affirmative to have ten minutes to close.

THE AUTHOR.



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